

CANADIAN

# Welfare

November - December

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CANADIAN

# Welfare

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## The Canadian Welfare Council

Was founded in Ottawa, in 1925, as the result of a National Conference of Child Welfare Workers, convened by the Child Welfare Division, Dominion Department of Health.

### OBJECT

- (1) To create throughout the Dominion of Canada an informed public opinion on problems in the field of social welfare.
- (2) To assist in the promotion of standards and services which are based on scientific principles and which have been proved effective in practical experience.

### METHODS

- (1) The preparation and publication of literature, arrangement of lectures, addresses, radio and film material, etc., and general educational propaganda in social welfare.
- (2) Conferences.
- (3) Field Studies and Surveys.
- (4) Research.

### MEMBERSHIP

The membership falls into two groups, organization and individual.

- (1) Organization membership shall be open to any organization, institution or group having the progress of Canadian Social Welfare wholly or in part included in their programme, articles of incorporation, or other statement of incorporation.
- (2) Individual membership shall be open to any individual interested in or engaged in welfare work, upon payment of the fee, whether that individual is in work, under any government in Canada, or not.

### FEES

1. Sustaining Members	Annual	Fee, \$25.00	Representatives: 2
2. National Organizations	Annual	Fee, \$ 5.00	Representatives: 3
3. Provincial Organizations	Annual	Fee, \$ 3.00	Representatives: 2
4. Municipal Organizations	Annual	Fee, \$ 2.00	Representatives: 1
5. Individual Members	Annual	Fee, 1.00	
6. Donor Members	Donation	\$10.00 or more	

In electing the Governing Board and the Executive, all members will be grouped according to their registration by the Treasurer.

Every member will receive a copy of the proceedings of the Annual Conference and such other free publications as may be published from time to time.







## The Family under Fire

THE LAST GREAT WAR, in its long strain and tensions, in its uncertainty of life and the future, in the tremendous adjustments, following on its close, shattered many of the traditions and conventions of family and personal relations and morality. The repercussions have run, like recurring earth tremours, through the whole structure of the world's life, and there can be no doubt that the new philosophies, leading to the Anglo-Axis War, have found their dank growth in considerable part, in the breakdown of fundamental attitudes and moralities, and the disintegration of the old institutions which were, at the same time, their product and their support. The determined attacks or substitutes, advanced for family life in the conversion of a state to Nazism, Communism, or Fascism, are their own proof of how fundamental are its ideals and training in the maintenance of those individual strengths and freedoms, from which flows our democratic way of life.

Profound economic adjustments have changed the means of production and so the ways of community and of individual living. Urbanization has forced significant changes in the physical plant of the family, and the small apartment, flat, or shared house naturally drive many of the common interests and activities of the family group beyond its confines. Many of the unifying sufferings of family relationships, the fears and tenderness associated with sickness, suffering, and death, occur in individual isolation today, in hospital, clinic or infirmary. Recreation, with the exception of the new home-centering influences of the radio, lie outside the home. The long decade of unemployment pulled the family further apart, disintegrated it in the wandering search for work of younger members, bred new despairs, suffering, and frustrations, with their consequent irritating resentments. With inadequate discharge of many of its ancient purposes,—the assurance of food, protection, and shelter,—passing, in part, to public relief and voluntary welfare services, still other shudders shook the family structure.

And now, aerial war forces communal living, eating, sleeping in the land where the home has guarded its ancient privacies as within a castle.

Will the family survive? Our lead article traces some of the fissures, visible in the Canadian background, even in that strong citadel of wholesome family life, old New France. Other articles show reinforcing agencies at work, even as these dangers threaten.

C.W.

The tireless associate secretary of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada raises vital queries, which echo through the whole structure of our national life.

Whither,—

## The Canadian Family?

HUGH DOBSON

THE FAMILY is the foundation unit in human society. All humans enter the human social order through some kind of a family. It may be legally constituted or illicit. It may carry on with responsibility or irresponsibly. A family is normally constituted by father, mother and offspring. Familial relations may extend to wider areas. A family tradition which is profoundly significant may pass from one generation to another. The atmosphere, pressure and tensions of family circumstances and family relationships extending through one family history to the history of an offspring family constitutes a school of unsurpassed discipline; shaping society, making history for good or ill. Family life in its quality, its character, its atmosphere, its ideas, its purposefulness, or otherwise shapes civilization more than any other human association.

The family is the most sensitive of all human associations. Family life registers more accurately than any other human association the ultimate effects of our cultural system, our educational method, our laws and customs, our economic order, the effects of urbanization and indeed the nature and value of any civilization as a whole. Stocktaking on the conditions of family life, the trends of

family life, the tensions and pressures of family life and the nature of necessary adjustments are always in order.

The indices to strains in our modern family life may be found in data on marriages, divorces, legal nullities, ecclesiastical nullities, legal and ecclesiastical separations, desertions, birth rates, juvenile delinquency, the case records of family agencies, the records of families on relief, family incomes, standards of living and of course too, if we knew how to analyze them better, in the case records of general and mental hospitals and the crime history of those in penal institutions. There is of course no absolute index and no adequate interpretation of such information.

Divorces in British Columbia are more than three times greater pro rata of population than in the province with the next highest rate. B.C. divorces constitute about one-third of all the divorces in Canada during the past year or two. Prince Edward Island and Quebec have low divorce rates. In P.E.I. these are somewhat accounted for by the fact that the Government Executive Council has always had, in its members, 3 Roman Catholics and 2 Pro-

testants. The Roman Catholic majority may have had the effect of discouraging applications for divorce.

If we could secure in Quebec the data on ecclesiastical nullities and the complete record of desertions, we might have a much more

accurate account of family disruption in that province. Relief case records are reported as showing a high rate of desertions. There is a very high child mortality rate in Quebec and this too is an index on family strength and tension. There is no public statistical re-

# DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA 1918-1939 (FINAL DECREES)

*From Dominion Bureau of Statistics*

Year	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total for Canada
1918	24	10	2	10	—	1	2	65	114
1919	36	13	4	46	88	3	36	147	373
1920	45	15	9	89	42	26	65	136	427
1921	41	13	10	96	122	50	84	128	544
1922	35	12	6	91	97	37	129	138	545
1923	22	19	10	102	81	41	87	139	501
1924	42	15	13	113	77	28	118	136	542
1925	30	15	13	119	79	42	101	150	549
1926	19	12	10	111	85	48	154	167	606
1927	29	17	13	181	101	60	148	197	746
1928	28	13	24	213	79	55	168	203	783
1929	30	21	30	207	89	69	147	222	815
1930	19	27	41	204	114	62	151	255	873
1931	36	20	38	90	94	51	154	208	692
1932	35	26	27	338	114	61	149	245	995
1933	27	12	24	303	116	48	135	258	923
1934	33	17	38	356	126	62	168	306	1,106
1935	52	36	28	460	145	60	209	384	1,376
1936	41	38	40	507	179	79	209	433	1,526
1937	36	54	43	596	200	109	241	589	1,870
1938	51	39	83	813	205	122*	261	309†	1,885*
1939	64	40	50	743	181	124	266	554†	2,022

\* Revised.

† A report from the British Columbia Board of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, under date of August 24, 1940 states:

Our final figures for 1938 which have since been published in the annual report of vital statistics for British Columbia were as follows:—

Total decrees entered.....	652
Dissolutions of marriage.....	625
Annulities of marriage.....	22
Legal Separations.....	2

In two cases the action was dismissed by the court and in one case the action was withdrawn. The preliminary figures for 1939 show a total of 608 decrees entered:

Dissolutions of marriage.....	581
Annulities of marriage.....	21
Legal separations.....	3
Actions dismissed by courts.....	3
Total decrees entered.....	608

"While I think," writes the registrar, "that the 1939 figure will be final it must be considered preliminary until approved."

It is interesting to note that in the report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics comment was made on the decrease in B. C. from 589 final decrees in 1937 to 309 in 1938 and 554 in 1939, the provincial report shows dissolutions in 1938 as 625 and in 1939 as 581. This discrepancy of the statisticians should be checked up between them.

cord of ecclesiastical nullities which is an obvious lack in our story of family statistics.

### *Desertion*

There has been no adequate statistical study of desertions throughout Canada as a whole, and therefore the comparative study, by provinces, on this phase of family breakdown is impossible.

The Department of Health and Public Welfare of Manitoba published a report, in 1931, on "The Problem of Family Desertion in Manitoba". It contains a great deal of valuable information which gives ground for a conclusion that desertion affects, in that province, as many families as divorce. In 1930 Manitoba reported 114 divorces while this latter report estimates a total of 458 deserted families. There is no gauge of exact comparisons, at present, between divorces and desertions.

The Manitoba study of family desertion offers the suggestion that it would be well within the mark to say that approximately 65% of desertion has been caused directly or indirectly through the infidelity of the husband or the wife. In checking up the date of marriage and date of birth of the first child a number of instances were discovered which showed that the contracting parties in the marriage cohabited previous to the solemnization of marriage. No doubt this sex laxity, predating marriage, was a contributing cause to characteristic weakness which later resulted in desertion. Cases of infidelity,

not having this previous history, generally showed the influence of a third party. 'Absconding with another woman', 'running away with another man', 'threatened with arrest for molesting young girls', are types of replies to be found to the questionnaire.

A Montreal report on desertion tabulates as the causes of desertion: Sex difficulties 42%; temper and incompatibility 29%; intemperance 14%; mental trouble 8%; economic 7%.

### *Marriage Age and Birth Rates*

The study of marriage rates may give same clue to strains on family life. A careful student of vital statistics, in a private conversation, recently commented on the greatly increased marriage rate starting with the beginning of the war. There was an increase in one Western Province of 1,500 marriages over the number in the last three months of the former year. Many of the brides were quite young. In many cases separation, due to war, will be quite long and the changes in the cultural and economic order of the next few years may, at any time, be very abrupt. There are plenty of possibilities and indeed high probability of strain in family life in that field.

The study of birth rates, by provinces, in Canada, is another field that yields ground for enquiry. Take 1938 birth rates per thousand population by provinces. New Brunswick 25.7; Quebec 24.6; Nova Scotia 22.3; Prince Edward Island 21.0; Alberta 20.3; Saskatchewan

19.4; Manitoba 18.7; Ontario 17.6; British Columbia 16.4. Compare these with divorce rates and one observes that British Columbia which has a high marriage rate and a low birth rate has an excessively high divorce rate. Of course this does not tell the whole story. If one studies much more closely in this field one is led however to the conclusion that a healthy family group of 3 to 5 children is about its own best anchor against the disintegrations of our times.

#### *Poor Home Backgrounds*

A study of crime and of the inmates in our penal institutions, including juvenile delinquency, reveals severe family strains and the results accruing therefrom. A report of a parliamentary committee of the British House of Commons, two years ago, listed over 150 cases of juvenile delinquents with a record of their disrupted homes that was staggering.

A very large number of delinquents came from disrupted homes. Last year on a visit to one of the penitentiaries of Canada, some hours were spent in discussion with the younger prisoners. There was one young fellow, intelligent, alert, in fine physical condition, showing far above the average capacity for social leadership. He was under life sentence: he came from a broken home. He had never been trained in self-mastery of his impulses. That was all. Family strain accounted for his case. There were two others, fine looking fellows to whom the warden spoke, as he left the room. Afterwards, it transpired

that he had just informed them that their younger brother had come in. All three were strong, alert, mentally normal; all were under long sentences; all came from one broken family.

The behaviour clinics of family courts are a good place to begin to trace back to the strains in modern family life. The psychopathic wards of mental and general hospitals, the venereal disease clinic case histories, the magistrate's courts where 'drunk and disorderly' cases are handled by the score, the police offices of our cities where traffic accidents arising from criminal negligence and drinking are recorded, the cabarets where the night life of our cities is revealed,—all these trace their lives on the chart of the strains in family life.

#### *Miscellaneous Factors*

Out of another area run the clues to family strain,—the number of brilliantly successful men, outstanding in many spheres of public life, and in the professions, the powerful business executives who are misfits in their family relations. One partner in the family group may be all intent on vocation, the other attempting to find some escape from ennui and idle time. There is no direct reflection on either partner, only the discovery of mismating in marriage, and the inability to adapt or adjust in the feverishness of our times.

A study of mixed marriages, between people of different religious faiths, and all the circumstances



connected with nullities, separations, desertions and divorces, reveals another whole series of family tensions due to cultural confusions, not relieved by extraneous influences of relatives and friends.

But all these factors are, to some degree, at least, manifestations, and, in some cases, symptoms rather than causes of the disease.

#### *Fundamental Causes*

The fundamental causes lie deeper—jealousy stimulated by highly suggestive literature with a higher market than literary value; misunderstanding and bitterness developing within the family because the young woman worker in shop or office—well dressed and younger than the wife—shares more intimately the burdens of the business man than the wife who bears heavy home burdens without an income sufficient to allow her to dress and live up to the same standards in the competitive life of our times.

The spread of popular knowledge in biology and physiology—which in most cases in only half knowledge,—kindles curiosity, and

excites to adventurous living which entangles many a life. The only remedy is more knowledge, more conscience and better controls.

Hasty marriages and an irresponsible approach to marriage relations offer utterly inadequate training for marriage and parenthood. Economic maladjustment, shifting population movements, a trend to nomadic life, again,—all these have come so suddenly upon this generation, that we are ill prepared to deal with them. Disintegration in our cultural life has led to the loosening of its fundamental ethics. Inevitable in these breakdowns are the lack of discipline, and the attitudes of defeatism, that are pulling down our very civilization to-day.

How can we meet these strains and tensions in our oldest institution, the family, in the life of to-day?

Easy divorce appears to be only an attitude of despair—it is the mark of fatalism. It is the expression of current defeatism. It is running away from life's difficulties. It is the scuttling of the ship.

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IN SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES, Dr. Dobson will offer his suggestions, and other contributions will deal with better preparation of the partners in this business of establishing a family: with the assurance of some economic security within the home, with a decent shelter as a *sine qua non* for wholesome family life, with healthful conditions of living as a keystone.

Is Dr. Dobson right in his fear of the shattering strains of these times on the Canadian family? Family agency records show war hitting hard.

## As Seen at the Family Service Desk

**P**ERSONAL PROBLEMS, requiring the most skilled service available, rather than material assistance, are changing the emphasis in family welfare work since the beginning of the war." That is the constant note in the reports of the family welfare agencies for 1939-40, yet the importance of this work in family adjustment and strengthening is almost unknown to the average citizen. "With so many families receiving army pay and with employment on the up, why should it be necessary to carry on family welfare work?", he asks, intent on the prosecution of the war, but unaware of present snags, that may threaten post-war wreckage.

### *Unemployables*

With the outbreak of war in September, a spirit of eagerness, of expectancy, ran through the mass of the people, and there was discernible a superficial tendency to assume that, with the impetus of war, the community would rid itself, at once, of its social and dependency problems. A general sense of activity and of easier money contributed to this naive assumption. But even as Canadian industry has "livened up", the family and public relief agencies still have the "hard core" of the unemployables; a group, who at the present time, are being

"hacked at" in the public relief cuts, and many of whom are already at the private agency's doors for supplementary, if not indeed, for major assistance. With them, the old strains of a decade of needy living are still evident.

One class of families under strain, the aliens, makes a sorry picture. Encouraged in the past to settle in Canada and to help in the development of this country, many, many of whom have made good Canadian citizens, they now find themselves amongst the "unwanted". The social agencies are concerned with all types of families, irrespective of race and religion, and so it is to them that these people now turn. Courteous treatment and sympathetic understanding may do much to eliminate the possibility of a bitter, disappointed group in this country to complicate the after-war social adjustment.

### *Cost of Living Problems*

The rise in prices has made it difficult for the low income home, the old couple on old age pension, and the widow on a mother's allowance. Families, who, before had managed to keep their heads "above water" by careful planning, have now gone under and must turn to someone for advice and help. Due to the higher costs of living, minimum family budgets on which agencies have based their

assistance for a good many years, no longer adequately meet the bare necessities and will have to be graded to a higher scale. Rents are up and the cost of food has increased. Fuel is more expensive, especially for those who can only buy in small quantities as it is needed. Comparing prices of July 1939 and July 1940, the cost of food, fuel, lighting and rent in a family budget, has mounted 5.3%.\* Where the income a year is \$600.00—\$30.00 is \$2.50 per month, and it's a lot!

### *Investigations*

The family agencies have been staying with their "cases" when their men enlisted, logically handling their investigations for and with the Defence authorities. Consequently, they are still servicing the dependents of enlisted men on their records in time of peace. In this way, the family is protected from a new intrusion on their private affairs and the real situation is better judged by those who have had contact with the family over a period perhaps of years. Although the expense of these investigations is partially covered by the Dominion Government, the service given is continuous and sometimes necessitates extra staff.

### *Budgeting*

Families, who have been on relief, and who suddenly have higher wages coming into the home, need guidance in planning the budget to avoid unwise spending or even dissipation and, in the

case of the soldier's family, to map out the expenditures of a monthly allowance instead of the usual weekly income. They need protection against the high pressure salesmen and the flock of debt collectors who haunt the house as soon as it is known that the husband is in uniform or work overalls.

There is another problem in the soldier's family, in which the social agencies stand by to meet the strain, that of financing his dependents until the first dependents' allowance cheque is received. There is usually a period of a month until the first allowance comes through, and unless there is a savings account, which there seldom is, the family who has never been on relief and who has lived up to its small income, is placed in a very awkward situation. Few merchants will give them credit to tide them over this embarrassing period and they are stranded unless some interested agency or association comes to their rescue. In many instances, money thus advanced is refunded when the allowance comes through but this is not always possible.

### *Advice*

Family life is in a much more unsettled condition now than in 1914. It has had to weather the last war, and the long drab years of the depression accompanied by unemployment. There has, in consequence, been a general loosening of restraint and a weakening of accepted standards.

\*Labour Gazette, August 1940.

There are always those who find it difficult to adjust to a dislocation of home routine. To quote an agency report—"In some cases enlistment of men relieved the particular situation either because of greater economic security or because of lessened friction in the home. But for the most part, need of our services with the soldier's dependents continues, and in a number of cases, a new need for our services was created. Sometimes, it was trouble with the wife, who felt a great bitterness and injustice over being left with the burden of the home and the children while her husband, in her opinion, was having no responsibility. Sometimes it was the irresponsible young wife who, out of sheer boredom and loneliness, sought an escape in unwholesome amusement.

#### *Supervision*

War activities bring an increase in problems arising from the unwholesome effect on the welfare of the children from the undesirable behaviour of the parents. The boy misses the controlling influence of the father, and the father, away from home on munition work or soldiering, misses the steadying influence of the home and the community. Husbands desert far more frequently, sex hazards multiply and illegitimacy increases. As a result, the family agency must have a more watchful eye over the family. Visits must be more frequent. Plans with other organizations are necessary to provide wholesome activities for leisure

and to direct energies into useful channels. A soldier, weighing the pros and cons of enlistment, asked the Agency staff member, with whom he was accustomed to talk over his difficulties about his boys: "If I go into the army, will you keep your eye on the wife and kids?" When he was assured that soldiers' families would get the same sort of service that was ordinarily given to civilian families, his reply was: "And they'll need it twenty times more, now". Another letter from England is typical and speaks for itself of the shadows in the home in these times—" . . . Will you or one of your associates occasionally drop around and see Mrs. K. I know she is all right but I would feel more comfortable if you were doing that as I have every faith in your organization".

With only one parent left in the home, the need for housekeeper service is more frequent. In cases of illness and accident, someone has to be placed in the home to care for the children till the mother's return. In many instances, the mothers refuse necessary hospital care, because of their unwillingness to be away from the children, and here again adult help must be at hand to relieve the sick woman of household duties while she is laid up at home. The dependent's allowance cannot always be stretched to take care of such emergencies.

#### *Community Recognition*

That the Family Agency has earned a new and better under-

stood place in the community is peculiarly demonstrated in these days of war. The mistaken idea that it was merely a relief giving agency is disappearing and people who, at one time, would have been embarrassed to be seen crossing its door step, are turning to it for assistance. "I wish I had come to you long ago but I thought you were only interested in people on relief", said one client.

Yes, there are family strains; family need of help—but, often the family's consciousness of their very need of it is a sign of concern and so, of strength. For instance, a British Naval Reservist applied for advice early in September, planning for his family during his absence overseas. One agency reports: "During September and October, almost one fifth of the total number of families referred to us for any kind of help were soldiers' families. They came of their own initiative, or were sent by the Regimental Auxiliaries, the different Units, the Red Cross,

and interested citizens. Several of them brought a friend. Some of the families were strangers and needed advice about schools, recreational facilities and all the other things that go with life in a big city and that newcomers find so bewildering to locate."

#### *Implications*

Figures taken at random from different parts of the country all go to prove that the work of the family agencies has increased and not decreased. Does this mean family breakdown? Not, if the family gets the help it needs, but, increasingly, the more frequent requests are for services that will be of help in stabilizing family life. The significance of this trend is the need it shows for larger staff and well qualified workers in the agencies. Family strains and shocks will be met with more effectiveness, as the Canadian community realizes that they are there, will not dissolve of themselves, but need intensive organization and service. R.H.

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### REFERRAL CENTRE—UNMARRIED PARENTS

A REFERRAL CENTRE for Unmarried Mothers is maintained under the auspices of the United Charities of Chicago. The function of this agency is to co-ordinate social services now available for the care of the unmarried mother in Chicago and to assist in plans for additional services as needed. It is intended for the use of social agencies, clients, or any individuals or organizations wishing to secure care for an unmarried mother.

The Referral Centre was organized on the recommendation of the Realignment Committee of the Council of Social Agencies of Chicago, following their study of 54 agencies, which pointed out serious gaps in the care and service offered the unmarried mother.



No family agency in the Dominion is serving the entire "military" front of its community to the extent of the Vancouver Bureau, whose director has had rich experience in both eastern and western Canada.

## Social Work with Families—Then and Now

ON JUNE 1ST, 1918, my first assignment, as the newest staff member of a private family agency, was to read a record about a soldier's family. The Canadian Patriotic Fund was giving a generous allowance to the dependents of this soldier, but the question of administration of the allowance, in order that the children might be given adequate care, was turned over to an agency, already long established in the community. Today, in most of our cities, the family agency, in all probability, would have known such a family before the father's enlistment because the record showed many evidences of family instability. If Mr. B. had enlisted in 1939 the family agency would have continued its interest in Mrs. B. and the children: indeed, it might not have been necessary for the allowance to be administered, because the family agency had been and was standing by. And this relationship might have made unnecessary in 1939 the sterner methods, used with Mrs. B. in 1918, because no preventive work had been done.

Since I am one of the very few people in Canada, who had experience in a family agency during the last war, and who has been continuously in the field of family social work ever since, I have been given the privilege of tracing the

changes in family social work in the twenty-one years between these two major catastrophies in our national life.

The Patriotic Fund of 1914 had not been very long in existence before it became aware of "unusual situations." In some cities a special worker was assigned to see what she could do when, in spite of a generous allowance, things were not going well with the family. These unusual situations played their part in showing the need for peace-time social agencies, emphasizing a preventive programme.

### *Changing Philosophies*

During the early part of this century, we found the social conscience stirred to a sense of many wrongs other than poverty in the social order. The old combination of restraint and punishment, which had been the philosophy of the "helper" in the 19th century, had given place to efforts to improve social and community conditions as well, so that people might be given the chance to "pull themselves up by their own boot-straps." The trend was towards preventive work, but with the helper still in the most important role, and too often implying, or even saying, "Do as I say or I won't help you!"

MARY MCPHEDRAN

Events, particularly the world war and the periods of depression, through force of circumstances, have changed the clientele of the family agencies. New ideas have helped us to stimulate the desire and develop the capacity of the individual to help himself rather than to make him the passive recipient of our alms, as in the days of the Lady Bountiful or her less attractive sister, Miss "I'll-tell-you-what-to-do."

The Mental Hygiene movement, through its interest in human behaviour, has noticeably affected our ways of helping. Prior to 1914-5, this movement was in its infancy: it was the world war that brought to light the large number of men who were unfit for active service because of mental ill-health. At the National Conference of Social Work in 1919 the meetings on Mental Hygiene claimed the interest of so many people that crowds were turned away. Mental ill-health was seen as a threat to national life, and more and more people became "mental-hygiene-conscious."

We may not have any greater appreciation of the worth of the individual than we had twenty-five years ago, but we all have more knowledge and understanding to bring to the treatment of individual needs, whether material or emotional, or, as is often the case, a combination of both.

#### *More Resources*

We have, too, numerous resources of which we hardly dreamed a quarter of a century ago. The young social worker of today may find it hard to realize that we have not

always had Mothers' Allowances. I remember hearing an earnest, embryo social worker, in 1918, wonder what people would do for washwomen when all the widows were given an allowance! Nor can the worker of today quite appreciate the relief that came to many of us when, some years later, Old Age Pensions became a reality, and many old people were given a greater sense of security than they had known for years. Today, these resources are so much a part of our community life that the days in which we lacked them seem as far away as Octavia Hill and her housing reforms.

The extension of the public welfare programme has been the most noticeable development between 1915 and 1940. This has come from a better general understanding of human needs and a more conscientious effort, on the part of the community as a whole, to meet these needs. The assumption of responsibility by the public, through tax funds, for such groups as the unemployed, the unemployable, the widow with children, and old people, has made it possible for the agencies, supported by private funds, to place more emphasis on other than material needs.

The work of the volunteer in the last war and through the 'flu epidemic of 1918-9 has not been entirely lost. We find this same volunteer effort, perhaps less extensive and intensive, but probably more effective, expressing itself through membership on the boards and committees of our community social agencies, today. These agen-

cies are the organized expression of the desire of the community to provide for those of its members who, unaided, do not function adequately in their place in the community's life. The social agencies themselves are manned by staff, trained in our schools of social science, while the Schools, in turn, are an outgrowth of the constant striving of the helpers to find better ways of helping.

#### *People in Trouble Know Us*

So, altogether, it seems to me the most natural thing in the world that a man should bring his problem of "What will happen to the wife and kids if I enlist?", to the place where he previously received help when the energy and imagination of his two boys led them into conflict with the community. If we have put into practice our belief that the family unit and its individual members can be helped to help themselves in meeting both their material and emotional needs, then the family agency does not search: it has its place and function almost thrust upon it in the setting of a country at war.

To find that your theories will work is one of the greatest satisfactions known to mankind. Every family agency in Canada that, just as a matter of course, has been drawn into work with soldiers' families, realizes the possibilities of that vague term "social work with families." But we cannot attain to its possibilities unless we have passed the stage of telling people what to do, and entered the more difficult phase of putting into practice the belief that each individual has a good deal to say and do in the guiding of his own life.

After twenty-two years in family social work, I find that no previous experience has strengthened my own convictions of the value of our modern version of self-help as has the natural way in which the family agency has slipped into its place as one of the home guards of the family life of our country when that country is at war.

May our social work with families build towards the realization of Miss Gordon Hamilton's recent dictum: "Society would wage no wars if it really remembered the individual and his family group."

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### BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON FAMILY CASE WORK

Family Welfare Association of America, 122 East 22nd Street, New York. Price 25c.

This pamphlet of bibliographies, issued in mimeographed form so that up-to-date editions may be brought out from time to time, has been planned for use by teachers, supervisors, case workers and students. References may be easily found under the all inclusive headings:—Care of the Aged, Case Work with Adolescents, Case Recording, Case Work Services for Children, Cultural Backgrounds, Family Relations and Marriage Counselling, Home Economics and Budgeting, Medical Social Work, Psychiatric Service in Case Work Agencies, Purpose and Programme of the Private Family Agency, Relations between Public and Private Agencies, Relations of Family Agencies with Churches and Schools, Supervision and Staff Development, and the Use of Relief in Case Work Treatment. This comprises the fourteen most frequently requested bibliographies.

La directrice d'une oeuvre familiale de renom nous indique comment elle s'emploie à sauvegarder la vie familiale si menacée à notre époque.

## Face aux Problèmes de la Vie Familiale d'Aujourd'hui

**L**ES difficultés et les épreuves amenées dans la vie familiale par la guerre sont nombreuses et diverses—l'absence au foyer du père de famille est la plus commune, et par conséquent est un facteur d'inquiétude constante. Dans n'importe quelle grande ville où le chômage est encore un problème important, la famille civile aussi supporte nécessairement les épreuves d'une vie rendue plus difficile par la hausse des prix. Les secours ou les salaires insuffisants entraînent la maladie, l'insécurité matérielle et morale, les logis surpeuplés et la révolte contre des conditions de vie intolérables. Nous sommes alors témoins de l'abandon du foyer, de la séparation des époux, et de demandes de placement d'enfants.

### *Services aux familles de soldats*

Considérons d'abord ce qui a été fait par les oeuvres de charité et les divers organismes de bienfaisance militaires à Montréal pour faire face aux problèmes de la famille des soldats enrôlés. Dès le début de la guerre, il s'est formé un Comité de coordination des Services en temps de guerre. Une filiale de ce comité est le Comité du Bien-Etre Familial. Ce dernier service a fondé un bureau de triage appelé "Service d'Orientation pour Familles des Combattants" sous la direction d'une assistante sociale

RUTH ROBERTSON

expérimentée. A ce bureau sont étudiées toutes les demandes de service de la femme du soldat telles que: retard dans les allocations, besoin de secours, etc. Ce service a centralisé les demandes de ce genre, et soulage ainsi les oeuvres familiales des quatre Fédérations: canadienne-française, protestante anglaise, catholique anglaise et juive, d'une grande partie du travail de correspondance et de renseignements. On rapporte aux oeuvres familiales les problèmes sociaux et économiques qui exigent les services d'une assistante sociale—par exemple, problèmes de conduite, désertion du soldat de son régiment, mauvaise santé, besoin des services d'une ménagère, et les demandes d'aide momentanée. Un autre organisme travaille en accord avec le Service d'Orientation et avec les oeuvres sociales et c'est: "La Ligue des Femmes de Soldats". A Montréal, cette oeuvre est très bien organisée dans chaque régiment et fait un bon travail, visitant et assistant les familles des soldats.

La contribution du Bureau d'Assistance Sociale aux Familles à tout cet effort de guerre peut être résumée en quelques mots: aide à l'établissement du budget, service de ménagères, placement d'enfants,

suralimentation, conseil et surveillance dans les cas de mauvaise conduite et négligence des enfants. Un des services importants donnés par notre oeuvre dans cette branche d'activité sociale mérite d'être étudié en détail—c'est l'administration, à la requête du Département des Allocations Familiales, des allocations qui doivent être réparties pour diverses raisons, par le Bureau lui-même au lieu d'être données directement aux familles. La plupart de ces cas ont rapport aux enfants d'un soldat veuf, ou à des enfants dont la mère a disparu, et qui n'ont pas de parents responsables. L'inquiétude de plusieurs soldats a été soulagée quand ils ont eu l'assurance que leurs enfants sont aux soins d'une oeuvre qu'ils connaissent et en laquelle ils ont confiance. Permettez-moi de donner un exemple de ce service rendu à un soldat et sa famille.

Monsieur M., simple soldat dans un régiment canadien-français, n'avait pas habité avec sa femme depuis trois ans et s'était enrôlé comme veuf ayant deux enfants. La Cour Juvenile avait placé ses deux fillettes, privant Madame M., leur mère, du droit de les garder. Cette dernière avait vécu en concubinage pendant plusieurs mois et les enfants avaient partagé cette vie irrégulière. Or les relations des parents et des enfants ont subi un changement presque complet depuis la guerre. Aidée par les bons conseils du chapelain du Régiment, Madame M. a convaincu son mari de la reprendre, et comme son régiment restait en ville pendant

plusieurs mois après son enrôlement, ils purent reprendre la vie commune. Au début, Monsieur M. refusa de signer les documents nécessaires pour que sa femme reçoive l'allocation familiale. Ce fut seulement après des mois d'efforts suivis, en travaillant pour gagner sa vie honnêtement, que Madame M. gagna la confiance de la Cour, de son mari et de l'oeuvre. Finalement, le Bureau des Allocations Familiales consentit à lui accorder son allocation à condition que cette somme soit administrée par le Bureau d'Assistance Sociale aux Familles, qui avait déjà la charge de la part des enfants depuis longtemps. Madame M. fut heureuse d'accepter ces conditions. Les enfants furent placés dans un camp d'été et plus tard comme pensionnaires dans un bon couvent. Le changement qui s'est opéré chez la mère est intéressant. Elle aime beaucoup ses enfants et elle est fière de leurs progrès. Elle va les voir régulièrement et fait leur blanchissage. Elle s'est détachée complètement de sa vie irrégulière. De son côté, Monsieur M. n'est plus obligé d'oublier qu'il avait une femme, comme au premier jour de son enrôlement, ni de se rendre pendant ses permissions, à une institution correctionnelle pour voir ses fillettes. Espérons que plus tard nous verrons la famille unie et heureuse.

#### *Services aux familles civiles*

Les services du Bureau d'Assistance Sociale aux Familles, aux enfants des familles civiles se sont organisés d'une manière assez



précise. Souvent, ces enfants souffrent de vivre dans des familles désunies et pauvres, où se présente parfois le problème de la naissance illégitime. La vie de famille doit être protégée et maintenue autant qu'il est possible, parce que c'est dans la famille que l'enfant se développe le plus normalement: tel est notre credo. Dans cette sphère, nous accomplissons un important travail et c'est le placement familial, dont nous faisons usage quand la véritable vie de famille n'est pas possible.

L'incorporation de notre oeuvre à l'Assistance Publique de la province de Québec nous a permis de développer ce travail, une partie de la pension d'un enfant indigent étant payée par les fonds publics. Comme les prix des pensions pour les placements familiaux sont plus élevés que les taux des institutions un tiers ou un quart des dépenses restent toujours à la charge de l'oeuvre. Dans quelques cas, surtout quand il s'agit de l'enfant d'une fille-mère, celle-ci doit aider autant que possible à payer la pension; mais en général son salaire ne lui permet pas de donner beaucoup. L'amélioration remarquable dans la santé et l'adaptation à la vie sociale normale des enfants placés dans les familles est pour nous un encouragement à persévérer dans ce champ d'action plutôt nouveau dans la province de Québec. Notre but est de rendre plus tard l'enfant à sa propre famille quand les conditions le permettent.

Les familles pauvres de Montréal ont récemment subi une dure

épreuve. La Commission de Chômage, sous la direction des autorités de Québec, qui venaient d'établir un système de travail pour les chômeurs, a rayé de ses listes à la fin de juin, toute personne considérée comme incapable de travailler—c'est-à-dire toutes les familles dont le chef était incapable de faire un travail de manoeuvre. Quelques ouvrières sans travail ont continué cependant à recevoir leur secours. Comme Montréal n'a pas un Département de Bien-Etre Public, la plupart de ces familles, plusieurs milliers même, se sont adressées aux oeuvres familiales. A Montréal, ville plutôt française, ce fardeau pesait surtout sur la Société Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, bien que les autres Fédérations des oeuvres de charité, catholique anglaise, protestante et juive, aient été bien affectées par ce changement des règlements du Chômage. Le nombre des nouvelles familles inscrites au Bureau d'Assistance Sociale aux Familles est passé de 210 en juin à 441 en août.

De même qu'au début de la guerre un plan d'action concerté fut établi pour les familles des soldats, de même pour résoudre ce problème affectant la population civile, un comité représentatif des quatre Fédérations d'oeuvres de charité fut constitué. Un rapport à l'autorité publique, municipale et provinciale, a été fait pour prouver une fois de plus, car ceci est un vieux problème à Montréal, l'incapacité de la charité privée à prendre à charge les cas chroniques de misère. Si on continue à laisser ce

fardeau à la charité privée, elle ne pourra plus maintenir ses "standards" et le secours donné étant réparti entre tant de personnes, sera forcément réduit, avec pour effet, des résultats graves pour la santé et le moral des familles. Cette épreuve qui affecte les pauvres de notre ville a groupé les dirigeants du service social de toutes les races et croyances dans le but d'assurer pour l'avenir un minimum de stabilité économique et de bien-être à tous.

La maladie et le deuil, la dépression dans les affaires, la désorganisation du commerce par la guerre, frappent tout le monde. Le travail saisonnier ou irrégulier empêche d'acquérir des habitudes de vie régulières. C'est la famille de l'ouvrier, sa femme et ses enfants qui en souffrent. Comment s'arranger sans un revenu régulier?

Pour l'assistante sociale, il n'est pas en son pouvoir de remédier à toutes ces conditions déplorables. Elle peut étudier leurs effets sur la vie de famille. Elle peut employer son doigté et son expérience à réadapter les travailleurs à d'autres emplois. Elle peut enseigner à adapter le budget familial aux ressources actuelles. Elle peut diminuer le nombre de délits chez les jeunes en les dirigeant vers des centres de récréation saine. Dans les cas de familles désorganisées par la maladie ou le deuil, le service de ménagère est un moyen employé par les oeuvres pour sauvegarder la vie familiale. La mère de famille malade, à l'hôpital ou à la maison, sans

parents capables de l'aider, est souvent heureuse d'avoir une personne expérimentée chez elle pour surveiller les enfants et tenir la maison. Ce service est aussi offert aux veufs qui désirent conserver un foyer aux enfants. C'est un nouveau service déjà bien apprécié.

Un autre élément grave nuit à la vie de famille des veuves, des femmes dont les maris sont hospitalisés pour incapacité totale physique ou mentale, des femmes abandonnées depuis cinq ans: c'est le changement récent de la Loi d'Assistance aux Mères Nécessiteuses. Toutes ces pensions ont été beaucoup réduites. Pour vivre avec cette allocation réduite, la mère est maintenant obligée de louer des chambres ou de travailler en dehors. Cette dernière alternative est contraire au principe même de la Loi d'Assistance aux Mères Nécessiteuses. Tous ceux qui travaillent à sauvegarder la vie de famille s'inquiètent des conséquences déjà apparentes de cette réduction des allocations. Il n'est point besoin d'insister sur le danger de la présence d'un pensionnaire. La mère qui travaille en dehors de la maison ne peut pas surveiller ses enfants, déjà privés par la Providence des soins d'un père. Enfin, s'il y a des enfants en âge de travailler et qui ont un emploi, ils protesteront d'être forcés de contribuer d'une façon disproportionnée à l'entretien de la maison. Ils quitteront le foyer au moment de leur vie où les influences familiales leur sont le plus nécessaires.

(Suite à page 48)

## Family Relationships in Time of War

The mental hygiene movement grew, in part, from the experience of the last war. Will it help to pull our vital institutions through this war?

**D**URING the past decade there has been much discussion about the decreasing stability and security in family life. "The world is changing", we were told. "The tempo of life is speeding up. The radio, movies, the motor car, liquor, are all contributing to a loosening of the ties between the child and the home. The family as an important emotional, social and cultural unit is definitely on the way out". Most of us were concerned, but not really very frightened about this. Somehow, we thought, the old family spirit would muddle through. You can't kill an important institution like the family by a few radios and motor cars.

And then came the war! What has been the effect of war on family life? Surely radios and motor cars pale into insignificance beside this major catastrophe. Family life and family relationships are on the spot. We are now facing a *real* crisis, which may suddenly precipitate the process of family disintegration—or may do just the reverse. Let us hope that it is the latter—that new resources and new strengths will emerge to weld the family group together in order to provide security for the individual, and add emphasis to constructive community effort.

We must do more, however, than express pious hopes about the problem. Let us see what is happening.

DR. J. D. M. GRIFFIN

All about us are examples of homes broken and family relationships disturbed as a result of the war. The emotional and mental hygiene implications of these broken families are tremendous. It is a fact that the feeling of personal and emotional security in the adult, as well as the development of sturdy robust personality in children, are directly contingent on the maintenance of healthy family relationships. When these are disrupted, the emotional reaction is unusually severe, and unless the situation is handled intelligently, a vicious circle is apt to be set up, which actually facilitates the break-up already begun.

### *Fear and Insecurity*

What kind of problems in family relationships are presenting themselves as a result of war? Typically, the family unit is disturbed in two ways. It becomes "broken" in the sense that the father, uncle, or grown son goes away on active service. Hence there is a gap or defect in the group. On the other hand, two or more family groups, from which the men are away on active service, may pool their resources and live together in one house or apartment. Thus we have a combination group. A similar situation also exists in the case of families who have come to this

country from the danger areas to live with relatives, friends, or even strangers. Each of these situations has its own problem; and it is necessary to understand the significance of the various psychological forces which contribute to the difficulties of adjustment.

Characteristically, the chief emotional factor which must be understood is *fear*; and closely related to this, *insecurity*. To understand the importance of fear in this setting, we must understand the causes underlying it. In many instances, the mechanism is simple enough. The fundamental needs, both physical and psychological are seriously threatened. In the danger areas, the basic threat may be against life itself. Experience in the Spanish civil war, however, and to some extent in the bombed centres of England in this war, has shown that concern over the loss of property and of the means of livelihood seem to be almost as pronounced as the fear of death. The concern of parents for the protection of their children is a most powerful motive. In England, the willingness of parents to send their small children, thousands of miles across dangerous oceans, to Canada and the United States is eloquent testimony to the power of this protective instinct. It also tells us something of the horror through which these families must have passed.

In this country, families are, fortunately, not yet in real physical danger. Yet the thousand and one possibilities of what might happen, the constant exposure to movies and radio, in which are vividly portrayed the hardships and agonies

of people in the war area—all these stimulate the imagination until the emotional tension may become at times as acute as if these dangers were actually present. The emotional anxiety and tension, occasioned by such imagined terrors, are more difficult to control than is the case when such hardships are actually experienced.

#### *Emotions React on Behaviour*

In addition to this general state of apprehension, however, there are real problems facing many families in Canada. Although the economic status of many families has been improved because of the regular pay and allowance coming from the enlisted men, there are also many families in which the enlistment of the breadwinner has meant a definite decrease in standards of living. Difficulties and delays in obtaining separation allowances have meant real hardship for others. The ever-present worry over the welfare of the men on active service adds to the general emotional tension of the situation.

Long-continued fear and apprehension of this type is bound to have its reaction on everyday behaviour, on thinking, feeling and attitudes. Relationships to the other members of the family group and friends are bound to be affected. Depending on the individual background, reactions will vary. Some will develop a protective screen of bravado; some will react by a general loosening of the moral code; but for most the constant pressure of insecurity will result in impatience and irritability in social relationships, coupled at times by

panicky thrills and feelings of self-pity. Many mothers, reacting to such feelings, will become oversolicitous for the welfare of their children, and we can expect a considerable amount of "spoiling" as a result. Many will direct the love and protective tendencies, which would ordinarily go to a husband, to the child instead, increasing the emotional bond which already exists. The result of this may be an inhibiting mother-child relationship which can do more to warp wholesome personality development than guns or bombs.

#### *The Child in the Shadows*

Often we blind ourselves to the fact that children are unusually sensitive to the emotional atmosphere occasioned by such difficulties. Such remarks as "He is too young to notice" or "Isn't it wonderful that children don't have to worry about these things?", are frequent indications of this attitude. Actually, we know that children do worry, and their worry is a very real and often terrible experience for them. Dr. Rudolph Pintner of Columbia University in a recent experimental study, has brought to light some of these common worries of childhood. In his study the most important worries concerned school; apprehension over family welfare and relationships came only second. It is reasonable to believe, however, that under the changed conditions of war, worries and fears for family security, for the father absent on active service, and for the welfare of the mother, etc., may become exceedingly acute. The other day a mother recounted

to a Toronto school nurse how, ever since her husband had left for overseas, her small son ran home from school every day at recess time to kiss her and make sure she was still there. The number of children who are experiencing terrifying dreams and nightmares is apparently increasing. Disturbed sleeps, disturbed eating habits, disturbed toilet routines, are becoming more and more frequent among the children of families where some readjustment has been necessary because of the war.

#### *The Need of Understanding*

If all this is true, what can be done as a preventive measure to maintain family stability and security? In the first instance, the most important principle to keep in mind is the necessity for understanding as clearly as possible what is happening. When we find ourselves depressed, irritable, and unable to handle the simple routine situations of family life easily, we should go off by ourselves for a moment and recapture our perspective. We must remember that these difficulties are not sent by an unkind Providence to harry us, but are the direct result of physiological and emotional tensions occasioned within us by our efforts to adjust to a difficult situation. If we understand this clearly, the means to overcome them will be at hand.

There are many tricks available to us all, which are valuable in helping us maintain an objective point of view, as well as a realistic attitude toward our problems. Most of these tricks will be recognized as common-sense principles of effec-



tive living, and can be easily understood by everyone.

### *Effective Controls*

Our first duty in this country is to develop a firm conviction of the importance of the war effort and its goals. This is a war of people and resources—not merely of the armed forces. Our responsibility in the conflict is as great as that of the enlisted men, and we must accept this responsibility. Every healthy adult in Canada should be engaged in some activity, either through his regular occupation or in some volunteer capacity, which has significance in helping with the prosecution of the war. In this way, we are able to feel that we are sharing the hardship, the work, and the success of the men of the active forces.

Our second duty is to realize the importance of providing emotional security for the children. Children need a great deal of reassurance, but this reassurance can best be given by the example of our own behaviour and attitudes. A careful distinction must be made between supplying reassurance in this way, and the over-solicitation and over-protection which is so natural and so easy to give. For most families, a settled and definite routine, encompassing most of the daily activities, helps in establishing security. Where there are children, it is a good idea to give some thought to a programme of things to do which will look after out-of-school hours. More constructive, interesting, and healthy activities can be discovered for the children than sitting, passively listening to an exciting radio

programme, or going to the movies, where the news reel brings home only too vividly the dangers and disasters of war.

As a further contribution to the establishment of emotional security in children, we must learn to encourage an increasing amount of independence in our children. They should learn as early as possible to accept the responsibility of going messages, and remaining for increasing lengths of time away from the direct supervision of their parents. Not only is this good for the developing personality of the child, but it is a sound proposition for any emergency.

Where people are living together under stress and strain, problems, annoyances, and petty irritations are bound to arise. These should be solved, not by any arbitrary rule of thumb, nor by the dictates of one who sets himself up as the "head of the family." If emotional tension is to be kept at a minimum, problems of this kind must be settled by complete and full discussion, with all cards on the table. Only in this way will mutual confidence be established, and the inevitable give and take and compromise necessary under these conditions become possible.

### *Relaxing the Mind*

There is one more duty which is good mental hygiene for us all in time of war, and that is the necessity of paying attention to recreation and relaxation. The ability to relax is not something which can be easily learned. It is something like learning to swim. Everyone can do it, but it takes practice and con-

(Continued on page 23)

By courtesy of the Ottawa Library Association, *WELFARE* will review, each issue, the season's best book of "social significance".

## "Pioneers of Plenty"

THE SMOOTH, colourful material of the cups and saucers in your picnic basket may have been made from milk, or wood, or soya beans, or any other of many unrelated substances. Recently it has been said that stockings of "Nylon" will soon replace those made of imported silk. Nylon, a new fibre whose production from coal, air and water is well worthy of Mr. Ripley's attention, is making its way into everyday life as bristles for tooth-brushes, strings for musical instruments, artificial straw, and a fine silky thread from which stockings are being knitted. The chemical age in which we live has also given us cellophane, nail polish, patent leather, buttons and lacquers made from cellulose (itself a constituent of wood, cotton and the like); and shaving lotion, flour, soap, sherbets, wood stains, axle-grease, from peanuts; while from a hundred-weight of coal, a bushel of corn, a cord of pine wood, or a gallon of milk, the modern alchemists seem able to produce an astonishing array of materials that are claimed often to be "just as good" as the natural products being replaced. The "silk," "cotton," or "wool" in the limited wardrobe of an inhabitant of modern Germany is almost certainly made from wood, processed to resemble the textile fibres that

### THE STORY OF CHEMURGY

by CHRISTY BORTH

used to be imported. Other textiles come from casein, the substance from which cottage cheese is made, which also provides coatings for paper, glue, paint and plastics.

The one word *plastics* represents a field to which hundreds of chemists and engineers are devoting all their skill. *Bakelite* has taken its place among familiar names such as celluloid, rubber or macadam, but bakelite now is only one of the substances which have outlived the opprobrium "artificial," and boldly taken their place as plastics to make radio cabinets, toilet articles, dishes, telephones, aeroplane parts, venetian blinds, table tops, steering wheels and automobile fixtures—in fact almost anything that you might want for use or ornament about your house, office or factory can be obtained in some kind of plastic in colours sober to suit the practical machinist or gay to brighten the dullest room.

Such is the story of CHEMURGY. The author of *PIONEERS OF PLENTY*, as explained on the book's wrapper, is not a scientist. He is a reporter, and in that capacity attended the First Dearborn Conference, held to consider scientifically the problems of farm sur-

pluses and all that they entail. Here he heard about "chemurgy," a new word not yet found in many dictionaries, and, his imagination fired by the story, he soon became so enthusiastic that he was not satisfied with merely reporting the meetings as part of his daily assignment. He wrote **PIONEERS OF PLENTY** to picture to other non-scientists some of the fascination that he found in the story of the Chemical Age, successor to the Machine Age.

*Chemurgists*, he describes as "the modern and successful alchemists, transmuting waste into wealth," and *Chemurgy*, as "Chemistry at work, the answer of science to the problems of unemployment and the farm surplus."

Mr. Borth is not trying to prove that Science can solve all the problems confronting her. He is telling a very readable story of the contribution already made, giving glimpses of the men whose imagination and brains have made it possible. Though he writes of the United States, most of what he describes applies equally well to Canada, and all of us have a vital interest in the results of chemurgy, under whatever name it may be practiced, in Germany. Something out of nothing, or, more often, something of value or necessity out of something that would otherwise be either a waste product or a drug on the market—how far can "chemurgy" be carried in clothing and feeding a nation?

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#### FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS . . . (Continued from page 21)

fidence. More difficult than relaxing the muscles is the business of relaxing the mind. The quiet mind is as important a personality attribute as confidence, intelligence, and emotional stability.

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There is not space in a short article of this type to enlarge on these principles of effective living, but their importance in the job of maintaining civilian morale, as well

as the security of home and family relationships, must be self-evident. It is true that it often takes a national crisis and catastrophe to bring out the best that is in us. One might say that under such circumstances, we often transcend ourselves. Certainly it is true that the trying conditions of war can be made a positive and beneficial influence for the individual and the family.

The Director of Hamilton's Family Bureau tells of the effective results in one of Canada's most successful partnerships where the Court's the court, and the social agency, the executive service.

## When the Law's a Partner

IT WAS some five years ago that officials of the Family Court, in the City of Hamilton, expressed the opinion that, from their observation over a period of time, a closer working relationship with the family case-working agency—the Family Service Bureau—would result in a lessened number of court appearances. This would mean, they felt convinced, not only a saving of time in many instances for the Judge of the Family Court and others concerned but, of infinitely more importance, greater benefit for the families involved. It is readily admitted, said they, that once a charge is laid by one member of a family against another member, a breach is created that is seldom entirely healed; bitter words, arguing justification of the drastic action, are often spoken to be later regretted, and an emotional situation crystallized that might have been straightened out in another way. Would the Family Service Bureau be willing to place its preventative services at the Court's disposition? The Bureau Board appreciated the opportunity of demonstrating what might be accomplished through skilled, individualized techniques and a highly qualified staff member was assigned to Family Court work.

Then was the present practice initiated of persons, at the discre-

JEAN MACTAGGART

tion of the Family Court, being given the option of talking matters over with the Bureau representative before resorting to legal action. The basis of selection is, roughly speaking, those cases which seem to require careful study and treatment.

Seldom are these cases of domestic discord, susceptible to simple solution. While they may be superficially termed, say, desertion or non-support, it is the task of the caseworker to probe for the subtle conflicts, suppressions, antagonisms, and what have you, that have led to the anti-social conduct, just as a doctor seeks the source of infection. Even when there may seem to be real understanding of the cause of the trouble, both on the part of the worker and the members of the family, it is but seldom that we truthfully claim a complete reconciliation to the best of our knowledge. However, we can show that often there is accomplishment in the client's thinking through his problems, in new insights into personal weaknesses, in a development of spiritual strength, and the growth of greater willingness to compromise or face an inevitable situation.

### *How the Partnership Works*

The measure of success, in dealing with any tangled human rela-

tionship, can only be determined with the passage of time. Shortly after this team work, between the Family Court and the Family Service Bureau was initiated, a broad-shouldered giant of a man, almost totally deaf, appeared at the desk of a court official with a complaint against his wife, too many outside activities, consequent neglect of the home and lack of attention to his needs as the family breadwinner. He was determined to have a formal hearing before the Judge in order to air the list of his personal grievances which, he said, extended over a long period. After a series of discussions with the family agency he decided to support his family, but live apart from them; he found satisfaction in his work but his mind was distracted through worry over the loss of interest of his wife in him. He felt he would be happier if living "on his own." This feeling was found to be mutual. Through the year between, the agency has enjoyed the complete confidence of both husband and wife and has been the steadying influence in more than one blustery gale. There has been an entire lack of any coercive factor, so often associated with any court procedure and slowly, very slowly, old antagonisms are giving way to a willingness on the part of each to seek to understand the other in more generous spirit.

#### *Into Court*

In spite of all the arguments against formal court hearings in cases of domestic discord, there are admittedly situations where such procedure is the wisest course.

Hamilton is fortunate in having a socially minded Judge in its Family Court, with a sincere interest in the study of human relations and a considerable knowledge of psychology and the significance of its application in dealing with the type of these cases coming before him. As in other similar courts, the judge is not bound by the more rigid legal rules of evidence, but has latitude in the admission of facts relative to the social situation. For such evidence the judge is in many instances dependent upon the Family Service Bureau, the Children's Aid Society, or another social agency. He has acknowledged time and again the incalculable value of this help in presenting to him contributing factors, hidden conflicts—perhaps existing within or without the family group—the many ramifications that often surround and influence a case, and all of which are necessary in interpreting a situation and in arriving at a wise decision.

Undoubtedly due in part to the successful working of this partnership, an increased interest in the social point of view is discernible among many of the legal profession in attendance at the Family Court. It is becoming more widely recognized that dealing only with the immediate outbreak of trouble and using an "ordering and forbidding" technique does not constitute successful treatment. The result is that open-minded discussion with the social worker is the usual thing, with the honest objective of dealing with the problem in hand as

constructively as possible. One such case concerned the parents of a little lad of three years old. The father had left the home, after a violent quarrel with his wife because of her uncle living with them and recriminations made against his family. The mother claimed, before the court, that her husband had kicked her, but the injuries to her feelings plainly exceeded any physical hurt. Superficially, the solution to the trouble seemed to be for the uncle to leave and the family reunite and "live happily ever after." Feelings of hostility ran high and there was talk of separation papers being drawn up forthwith. Actually, it was in time discovered, the wife had a genuine affection and loyalty for her husband and her feelings against his people arose from her resentment at their unfair treatment of him, prior to his marriage. The husband had entirely failed to interpret his wife's feelings, reading into her resentment, personal discrimination. Before any suggestion of reunion could be broached, misunderstandings on both sides had to be cleared away and fresh confidence established. It was significant that counsel for both parties sought conference with the caseworker in working out constructive measures.

#### *Freedom of Action*

From time to time, the question arises of the Bureau's reimburse-

ment for this work from public funds, but so far it would appear that there is a good deal to be said for the private financing of this individual and discriminating treatment of each case, which the relative freedom of the voluntary agency makes possible. The public authority, in turn, collaborates in providing the specialized technique of legal discipline where this procedure may be necessary, or, alternatively, it calls into action the particular resources of the voluntary agency when it finds that any case, originating within the Court, requires counsel and advice rather than the application of the law.

#### *And the Court Says*

Just in case there might be any question, these comments were shown to an official of the Hamilton Court, and here's his say-so:

"In summing up the situation here, it can be truthfully said that the system adopted by the Family Service Bureau, in co-operation with the Family Court and its officials, has brought results undreamed of by those who inaugurated the system. Many a Hamilton family, today, owes its present happy condition to the guiding hands of the Family Service Bureau, when, without this advice and guidance, many would have drifted onto the rocks which so often lie in the pathway of domestic happiness and family welfare."



Mr. Morrison has proven, in Alexandra Neighbourhood House, Vancouver, what group work can do in reinforcing home strengths.

## Group Work Plays its Part

**G**RACE COYLE, one of the leading proponents of group work, thus defines it:

"Social group work is an educational process carried on usually in voluntary groups during leisure time with the assistance of a group leader. It aims at the development of persons through the inter-play of personalities in group situations and at the creation of such group situations as provided for in an integrated, co-operative group for common ends".

In times of stress, such as we are now experiencing, there are always some persons who are driven to interpret life in terms of a single, all-embracing need. It was to be expected that, in a state of war, such a tendency would develop as it did during the days of the depression. One phase expresses itself in the argument that recreational activity should be abandoned and our money and efforts concentrated on various forms of war service. Such an attitude is dangerously shortsighted.

If the necessity of emphasis on war effort be admitted, there are war-time obligations for increased service facing the group work services. Children from homes where the fathers or older brothers have joined the army, find company

WILLIAM A. MORRISON

and comfort in these activities. Mothers, faced with new and added responsibilities in the care and training of their children, can turn to these agencies for supplementary training. A strong group work programme will also help in preventing neuroses, resulting from emotional strain, excitement, family break-down, absence of loved ones and other pressures in a state of war. Group work also has its contribution in strengthening the character of young men, in or out of the army faced with the temptation which war's excitement brings and which, if not resisted may add to the other costs of war, moral and physical deterioration.

No, the recreation and character-building agencies are an integral part of Canadian life, and are faced with a challenge and opportunities for service as great, if not greater, than in peace time. With all other local and national services, they are under obligation to re-examine their motives, their programmes, their organization and their results in the light of the general economic and moral self-examination which this war imposes. For rarely has the duty of clear thinking out of real needs and relative values been more necessary.

### *No Moratorium in Character Services*

Rather than declare a moratorium on the moral and spiritual growth of children, let us accept emergency war work as a temporary addition to our regular community responsibilities. Our civilization can advance only by increasing its resources of human power and originality. We must prepare for a better post-war civilization by discovering and developing the individuality, talents and social adjustments of children and young people through the activities of our group work agencies. Reinforcement of individual character and home strengths means reinforcement of neighbourhood or community work, which is one of the most important means of maintaining national vitality and spirit.

The quality of our leisure-time activities is an index of our character as a nation and as individuals. We reveal what we are in the nature of our recreation and our cultural ideals. If, therefore, the recreation of our whole society can be so directed that there is a positive moral, social and spiritual growth, the effect upon our civilization will pass computation.

The cost of character education must be met either today or tomorrow. It is only a question as to whether we should pay in advance for constructive character building, to prevent morale from slipping, or whether we will pay inevitably and to greater cost later in economic and human

breakdown, and their slow rebuilding.

There are great general agencies, with group work, directly or incidentally featuring in their programmes, — the Church groups, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Boys' Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Playgrounds Committees, etc., and the specialized activities serving only definite areas, the Social Settlements and the Neighbourhood Houses in different parts of Canada. While their programmes are specialized within the immediate call of their own community, they are characterized by features common to all group work.

### *Group Work and Its Neighbourhood*

Mary Simkhovitch, head worker of Greenwich House, New York, can perhaps speak with unchallenged authority in this field. "The aim of the neighbourhood worker", she says, "is to bring about a new kind of community life. This organization of community life may be carried on by any qualified individual or association; but it is often centred in a Neighbourhood House or Settlement, which is a meeting place of friendly neighbours and a centre for information, organization and service.

"The Settlement should know the housing, health, recreation, industries, family and social life, political and religious associations of the people about it. It should render services to them as individuals, as families and as a

neighbourhood, co-operating with all helpful agencies.

"It should be a centre through which can flow to them the cultural life from outside the neighbourhood. It should organize their interests, social, cultural, artistic and intellectual, in order that they may be strengthened through group development. In the House the neighbourhood should find its own self-expression in thought and in action."\*

The group work of the neighbourhood house possibly impinges more directly and beneficially upon the family as a whole, than detached specialized group activities for it emphasizes the cultural, social and creative activities, rather than physical recreation alone, although the latter has its important place in a well-rounded programme. Older and younger members of a family, fathers and mothers, young people, boys and girls as well as the small child, find their place and their share in its work.

#### *Group Work Co-operative*

Group workers must recognize the place of the home and the family life as a necessary agency of human society. It is not sufficient that they should undertake to influence members of their centres, simply as individuals through their group activities; they must work with the entire family, strengthening home ties and seeing that every growing child will find in his home an opportunity for overcoming selfish-

ness, greed and jealousy, developing instead the sterling qualities of love, service and self-sacrifice. They must, therefore, provide activities which will appeal to all members of the family, regardless of age or sex, and reinforce both individual character and home strengths.

In such a programme, the group work agency must avoid undue duplication of the work of other agencies or organizations serving the neighbourhood. For instance, if the local school has an excellent gymnastic programme, little, if any, of this particular activity need come into the community centre programme. And with the individual seeking the resources of the group agency, care must also be taken to limit participation, so that no one influence excludes others, and that distraction does not come from diffusion of interest. Over too many areas, the home, the school and the Church must all be taken into consideration when planning a programme for a child; home, work, the church, in the activity of the adult. The family is strengthened if the parents are made partners in the child's club activities or classes, and the father and mother work side by side with the group leader. Home ties are further strengthened if the worker is helpful in interpreting the mature interests of the parents to their children and the new hopes and ideals of the children to their parents.

Mothers' clubs are strong reinforcements of home life, for in their companionship strength and

\*Simkhovitch "The Settlement Primer."

courage seem to pass from one to the other and the practices of motherhood broaden in interests and in skills. Co-operative living, necessary to the family and the community gains early strength in the nursery school and kindergarten groups, in which remarkable adjustments are made by little children in their understanding environment.

Adventures in group living through the many activities possible in a club of friends, developments in social relationship through recreation, through music, art or dramatics, will claim the interest of most boys and girls. Playing together, in gymnasiums or outdoor games, develops many of the qualities needed in later life. In a club of boys and girls it is possible to develop leadership and initiative and to discover special talents which can be developed in special interest groups.

#### *Enriching Life for Living*

There is a growth of individual adjustment through the gift of cultural interests to the community, and especially to those, on whose lives fall the shadows of drab and uninteresting conditions of work or life. Musical recitals by fine musicians, book reviews, educational movies, trips to museums and art galleries are some of the group activities which make a very real contribution to cultural growths.

Discussion groups encourage people to give more thought to current events, to plan for more normal and wholesome living and

to take an interest in community welfare and activities. Such quickening of interests contributes at once to individual character, home strengths and better citizenship.

#### *Giving Resources to People*

"Singing is a natural and satisfying mode of expression for the abundantly healthy and well-adjusted individual."\* In encouraging and stimulating interest in singing, a resource and refuge in adjustment may be built up for the child and individual, if attention be given not only to songs, but to the way in which they are sung. The ability to sing professionally is limited to a relatively small number of people—the ability to sing for satisfaction is within the range of almost everyone. Sing-songs and music appreciation hours, teach people to appreciate good music and to develop their musical talents. Of all the phases of music education the art of listening is perhaps the most important. The understanding of music and appreciation of fine performance may not only be an end in itself, but the opening and inspiration to many channels of music participation. In the hurly-burly of today it may offer a strength and reinforcement which will go far in adjustment of individual and family lives, when the harsher ways of life beat in upon them. Access to group activity in drama and art offers an excellent means of self-expression and frequently children who present

\*Bauer and Peyser "How Music Grew".

discipline problems or problems of adjustment "find themselves", in such groups. It has been the experience of most group-work organizations that training in dramatics has a high educational value, not only in making children more expressive, but in giving them precision in the use of English—an experience especially valuable to people who speak a foreign tongue in their homes.

*Group Strengths are the Nation's  
Morale*

Volumes could be written on the value of group work as a means of maintaining the morale of individuals, of families, of communities, in fact of nations, in times like these. The value of that self-reliance and sufficiency which enables an individual to maintain a more or less normal mode of living, in spite of outrageous circumstance, is now being demonstrated in England where, in spite of the destruction and uncertainty of life, the people are giving a gallant

and magnificent demonstration of carrying on without panic. It is in building up these qualities of an active interest in life, a self-reliance and a self-sufficiency, nicely adjusted to community living that the group agencies contribute to clear thinking and careful planning, and so to the strengthening and maintenance of national morale.

When the war is over and we are faced with a period of reconstruction and rehabilitation, group work will continue to meet grave needs. All the years that lie ahead are likely to be difficult ones; our democracy will be put severely to the test in making needed adjustments to tremendous changes. And, as in the days of the depression and these times of stress, centres where people can meet, and in friendliness work, carry out discussion, inquiry, experimentation, and establish understanding, will be essential in the strengthening of individual, family and community life.

**THE MONTREAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Medical Social Work Institute, May 15th - June 30th, 1941**

***Preliminary Announcement***

The Montreal School of Social Work is planning an intensive six-week course in the theory and practice of medical social work.

In accepting applications preference will be given to medical social workers with some experience, and efforts will be made to meet individual needs. Classes will be small and conducted on a seminar basis with opportunities for observation, practical work and frequent individual conferences with qualified instructors.

A certificate will be awarded on the satisfactory completion of the course.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director at the School, 3600 University Street, Montreal. (HARbour 5811).

## Safeguarding Secret Documents

MILDRED B. McMURRAY

The legal supervisor of the Manitoba Department of Health and Public Welfare contributes a timely article on safeguarding the birth records of children born out of wedlock.

**W**AR has always led to tensions and the snapping of old restraints in the upheavals that it brings. Already, Canadian social agencies are reporting a general upward trend in illegitimacy and in the marriages of very young mothers. As birth records become more and more important in a dozen procedures of the more highly organized modern state, the question of whether such documents should reveal the legitimacy of birth again enters the list of practical discussion. Miss McMurray presents a valuable analysis of present Canadian practice.

There has been considerable discussion during the past few years as to the relative merits of removing the item relative to legitimacy from birth records. On the one hand, there is definite value in having available as accurate a picture as possible of the social status of every child in a properly safeguarded State file and also in having statistical data on births out of wedlock that will assist in social planning for unmarried mothers and their children. The major argument for elimination of this item is that the entry on the birth record as to the status of the birth, stigmatizes the child. This, in turn, raises the question of safeguarding the data on birth records from the general public. The practice of the various Vital Statistics Departments of Canada is of interest.

*Alberta* does not register the name of the father of a child born out of wedlock unless under written authority of the alleged father. Every request for information re-

garding an illegitimate birth or an adoption is scrutinized by the Registrar to ascertain that the purpose of the inquiry is lawful and not improper.

*British Columbia* does not record the name of the putative father unless at the joint request of the parents of the child. The birth certificate of a child born out of wedlock or of an adopted child gives only the name of the child, the date and place of birth. The right of the general public to search the records of birth registrations is very strictly limited by statute:

- “(a) No certified copy or extract from any registration of birth of a child upon which has been entered a marginal notation of adoption . . . shall be issued which discloses the natural parents of such child; and
- “(b) No certified copy or extract from any registration of birth of an illegitimate



child . . . shall be issued which discloses the illegitimate birth of such child;

except to a person who requires such certified copy or extract in order to comply with the provisions of the 'Adoption Act' . . . or to officers of the Crown for use in the discharge of their official duties; or to any person authorized by the Provincial Secretary in writing to obtain such certified copy or extract; or to any person on the order of a Judge of the Supreme Court who may for good cause order the Registrar to issue such certified copy or extract to such person."

The Adoption Act protects the record of adopted children by similar provisions.

*Manitoba* does not register the name of the alleged father, unless there is a joint request of both parents. The birth certificate of a child born out of wedlock or of an adopted child is in short form, giving only the name, date and place of birth of the child. The Registrar exercises a discretionary power in giving particulars regarding birth registrations to the general public but there is no statutory provision concerning this point. If the parents of the child marry, subsequent to the birth registration, the latter may be corrected so that the child takes the name of its father.

*New Brunswick.* The New Brunswick Vital Statistics Act provides that any person shall be entitled, at all reasonable hours and on payment of a prescribed fee, to have search made of any birth record.

There is no discretionary power vested in the Registrars to withhold any information, although it is understood that such discretionary power is sometimes exercised by the Registrars to good advantage.

*Nova Scotia.* The name of the alleged father is not registered without the consent of both parents and the Registrars exercise discretion in the search of their records.

*Prince Edward Island.* As in Nova Scotia, the name of the alleged father is not registered within the request in writing of both parents, and search of the records is subject to satisfactory evidence that the information is sought for a lawful and proper purpose.

*Ontario* records the name of the alleged father only by request of both parents. This applies only to the district registrars. Apparently no power is given the Registrar-General to enter the name of the alleged father, after the registration has been noted by the local registrar, at the request of the parents. Any person may request a search to be made but the name of the alleged father is not given. A short form of birth certificate is used for children born out of wedlock and for adopted children born in the Province of Ontario.

*Quebec.* In the Province of Quebec, the method of registering births is completely different from that of the other Provinces. Registration of births is entrusted to the clergy of the various faiths, officially recognized by the Province,

and takes place when the children are baptized or simply declared to the minister of the creed to which the families adhere. This system of registration is defined by the Civil Code in which an article explains that illegitimate births shall be recorded without mention of the names of the natural parents of the children, either father or mother.

The Demographer's statistical reports do not constitute registration of the births; it follows that reports of illegitimate births, made to this office without mention of the names of the parents, have no real importance from the point of view of registration.

*Saskatchewan* registers the birth of an illegitimate child under the legal surname of the mother, and the name and particulars concerning the putative father are not entered on the registration record, except at the joint request of both parents. If the parents marry afterwards the child is deemed to be legitimate from the date of birth, and the usual entries are made on the original record. Discretionary power is vested in the Registrar regarding searches of the records for the public. After legitimation or adoption, a short form of certificate is issued stating that the child concerned is a lawful child, and giving the names of the natural parents, or the adopted parents, as the case may be. All the details concerning an illegitimate birth may be given only for legal purposes.

*Newfoundland.* In Newfoundland it is not legal to register any person as the father of an illegiti-

mate child, except at the joint request of the mother and of the person acknowledging himself to be the father. Under the system of registration, records of illegitimate births are included in the general registers of births, and, by law, the general public may have reference to any register on payment of a small fee; and a certified extract from any register may be obtained, on application, by paying an additional fee. In the case of an illegitimate birth, the name of the father is simply omitted, unless registered in the regular way.

It would appear that, in general, Canadian practice is that

- (a) the birth of children born out of wedlock is registered in the name of the mother and the father's name is noted only by request of both parents.
- (b) Most provinces provide for change of name, following legitimation proceedings.
- (c) There are no legislative enactments in any of the provinces, with the exception of British Columbia, that adequately safeguard the records of children born out of wedlock from the general public. At the same time, in most provinces, despite the lack of statutory power, the Registrars of Vital Statistics Departments endeavour to protect the records of birth from prying eyes by refusing to give information to the general public in matters which are not their personal concern.

There is no finer, as there are few older, national institutions than Canada's "V.O.N.," founded by Royal Charter in 1893, and strengthening every Community Chest by their participation therein.

## The Victorian Order of Nurses and the Community Chest

BEATRICE CREASY

**B**EFORE discussing the experience of the branches of the Victorian Order of Nurses participating in Community Chests let us review briefly the purpose of these two organizations:

### *The "C.C.C."*

The Community Chest is a co-operative organization of health and social agencies whose purpose is to raise funds for its affiliated agencies in one community wide appeal and to distribute these funds in accordance with an agreed budget procedure. The Council of Social Agencies, composed largely of representatives from these affiliated agencies, is either the parent body, an integral part of the Chest or closely associated with it. It is the social planning department whose function is to study, co-ordinate and plan for improvement in the existing community health and welfare programmes.

### *The "V.O.N."*

The Victorian Order of Nurses is a visiting nursing organization whose purpose is threefold, namely, to nurse the sick in their own homes regardless of race, colour, creed or economic status, to pre-

vent the spread of disease, and to promote health by teaching the rules of healthful living.

The very nature of Victorian Order work necessitates close co-operation with all other agencies whose purpose it is to improve the standard of living in the community. The starting point in community planning is the family, for whom we want to secure better health and to provide the services needed to maintain and improve its standard of living.

The visiting nurse must deal with the family as a whole, as illness of one member affects and is affected by family relationships. Then too, illness is often associated with social problems and successful treatment is dependent on the adjustment of these problems. Of what use is it to tell the sick mother that she must have rest and freedom from worry if she knows that her children are being neglected while she is not able to care for them? So the nurse learns to work with other agencies and to appreciate their contribution to community welfare, and the Victorian Order of Nurses comes to a

realization of the advantages of being a member of the Council of Social Agencies and the Community Chest. Then too it has always been the policy of the Victorian Order of Nurses to review its local programmes in relation to changing community needs and to try to adapt to them. In cities where no other health agency is in the field, the Victorian Order of Nurses may undertake what is known as a "Special Activity" such as school nursing, in addition to its basic programme of bedside nursing, always bearing in mind however, that this activity is to be relinquished when its value is proven and the proper official agency is ready to assume the responsibility for it. This policy has resulted in co-operation and understanding with other agencies and a readiness to participate in social planning.

A number of agencies having membership in Community Chests have affiliation with national organizations similar to that held by the Victorian Order Branches. This safeguards the policies and standards of these agencies.

#### *What the V.O.N. Thinks*

While at the present time only 13 of the 92 branches of the Victorian Order are located in centres in which there are Community Chests, these branches are in the larger cities and employ 56% of the nurses of the Order. In 1939, 29% of the total amount of all money raised by voluntary effort to carry on the work in

Victorian Order branches was raised by Community Chests.

In discussing the advantages and disadvantages of participation in the chests with the directors of nursing in the thirteen branches affiliated with chests, the following points were brought out:—

**PRO** This method of raising funds impresses the business man as an orderly method of conducting the appeal for help and as rendering more effective the efforts of the workers in the campaign. It means an economy of time and effort for both the canvasser and the canvassed. One team from the organization canvasses one section of the City instead of the whole City. The business man has one appeal to consider instead of numerous appeals. He can estimate at once what he can afford to give and have done with it. Membership in the community chest adds prestige to the participant and is a guarantee to the community of the worth of an organization. Eventually public opinion will force agencies into the chest.

The campaign is wide-spread and thorough, thus more persons are contributing than formerly. There is more community enthusiasm when the whole city is participating.

One director said "It is more difficult to sustain board members' interest since only one big effort need be made during the year". Another director reported that the board was more interested in the actual work since money raising was not uppermost in the mind of

the members. On this same point a local board member remarked "It gets the appeal for funds all over at one time and leaves us free to study our nursing problems".

Relief from anxiety over finances was also expressed in these words: "There is an advantage in knowing that there is a budgetted amount of money which can be depended upon to carry the agency through the year."

It reduces administration costs. One big campaign costs less than many small campaigns. One federation reported administration costs as low as 2.9% of last year's total budget.

It has tended to make the organization more analytical of its programme; to quote the words of the director of a large branch "Details of agency administration being scrutinized forces board and directors to analyze their needs more closely and have sound reasons for steps taken".

Another said "It has been said that Chests hamper the development of new activities by the agency. If expansion is really justified the Council of Social Agencies is the first to see this."

Welfare activities should be thought of in relation to the whole community and the needs of the community should be presented in this way to the public. The organization develops a better understanding of this need instead of a narrow interest and can study more objectively problems involving the scrapping of any part

of the service that has outlived its usefulness.

It has raised standards by the interchange of progressive ideas through the Council of Social Agencies, and has tended towards a uniformity of accepted good standards. Some agencies are refused membership to the chest because of their unwillingness to conform. Local petty economies are not allowed to influence the service. Efficiency of operation rather than economy of expenditure receives the emphasis.

The principle of participating agencies not raising money individually is not strictly adhered to in some instances though usually this is done for some special project not budgetted for.

The chest has made the board budget conscious. It has also meant that the affairs of the branch must be run in a business like manner. The submission to the chest of not only a financial statement audited by a chartered accountant, but also a proposed budget for next year's expenditure necessitates a good bookkeeping system. The knowledge that this is so gives the public a feeling of confidence that their money is being spent wisely.

CON One of the difficulties mentioned is in predicting the earned income. One can only estimate roughly the number of patients that may require nursing service in the coming year, how much service will be required, and what proportion of the patients will be in a position to pay for this service.

Epidemics may disturb the balance and mean a large increase in the number of patients for whom service must be provided by the community. However, funds essential for nursing the sick are given primary consideration.

A need for public education of the principles of community chests and of the function of agencies affiliated with it was expressed in a number of instances. One board member said "We do not get the same publicity as before. People are not so interested in the Order". Another said "The identity of the organization is submerged to some extent consequently a certain amount of interest is lost by the contributors". On the other hand the strong appeal that the Victorian Order of Nurses makes to the public because its work is so easily interpreted to them was mentioned. The public is not yet educated to appreciate the economy of preventative health and social service work. It is so much easier to show results in remedial work even though the ills remedied need never have occurred. In discussing public education one director said that as the Victorian Order served not only those unable to pay but also those who paid for service; over emphasis on charitable work retarded the development of paid services.

In summing up these observations it is evident that the advantages far outnumbered the disadvantages. The disadvantages

would appear to be the result of faulty organization either in the Victorian Order of Nurses branch or in the chest in question and represent some departure from the accepted pattern.

#### *All Together*

The movement to co-ordinate appeals by voluntary agencies across Canada, being promoted by the recently organized Central Committee of Community Chests and Councils, is receiving the support of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada. Even though community chests are not organized in all centres affected, the Central Committee would act in an advisory capacity and the individual campaign would receive impetus and recognition through nation wide publicity. As the branches of the Order have local autonomy and many of them have already completed their fall campaigns the change to a fixed time for all campaigns cannot be effected immediately. It is thought, however, that this plan will result in economy of time and effort and bring better results. With so many pressing needs and problems being brought to the attention of the public these days we must not let people underestimate the importance of our welfare services. In the words of Dorothy Thompson "If a democracy loses its sensitivity, if its people fail to be disturbed by their neighbours wounds, by and by there will be no democracy".



There has been a definite swing in many centres towards a combined War and Home Services Drive, or, at most two drives for these two needs in recent months.

## Two or Nine Campaigns, 1940-1?

**E**ARLY IN SEPTEMBER, the Minister of National War Services, the Hon. James G. Gardiner, called into conference in Ottawa, representatives of the war services, appealing nationally in the first year of the war, together with representatives of the clearing committees of the Community Welfare Services. Subsequent meetings of representatives of the War Services only, were held later, and on Wednesday, October 16th, a further inclusive meeting was called at Ottawa, "for the purpose of canvassing the advisability and the practicability of the major voluntary war service organizations in Canada, uniting in one drive their appeals to the Canadian public for funds."

In the absence of the Minister in England the meeting was presided over by Honourable Mr. Justice T. C. Davis, Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of National War Services. With him was associated Dr. E. W. Stapleford, Director of the Voluntary Services Division of the Department.

Those in attendance at the meeting were representatives of the Canadian Red Cross Society, The Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts Fund, The Canadian Legion War Services Fund, The Y.M.C.A. War Services Fund and The Salvation Army Red Shield War Services Fund.

These are the five National War Services Organizations, authorized under the War Charities Act to conduct national appeals for funds during the first year of the war.

The Red Cross Society was just completing its second national appeal for funds, which was its first appeal in the second year of the war. The other four organizations had indicated that they intended to apply for leave for each to conduct another appeal between now and the spring of 1941.

The Navy League of Canada, the Y.W.C.A. and the I.O.D.E., having intimated to the Department that they intended to ask for leave, during the coming year, to conduct national appeals for support, were also represented

In addition representatives were present, at the request of the Minister, from the National Council of Women, the Central Committee of Community Chests and Councils, and the Canadian Welfare Council, which organizations while not contemplating any appeal to the Canadian

public for funds, are interested in the problem of united appeals. They attended in an advisory capacity.

An official statement was released by the Ministry reporting that "A very full and very frank discussion took place with respect to the main question under consideration, namely, the advisability and practicability of these various organizations uniting in one appeal for funds.

"It was impossible to obtain unanimity of opinion."

#### *The Red Cross Society*

Representatives of the Canadian Red Cross Society, acting under direction of its National Council and with the approval of its Provincial Branches in the Provinces of Canada, indicated that it could not at this time consent to entering into any joint appeal. Representatives of this organization stated in support of their stand, that the organizations involved in the discussion were in existence prior to the war, and would be in existence after the war, and were an integral part of the public life of Canada, and should be maintained as separate entities, and, in their opinion, uniting in one appeal would tend to break down the individual organization of each and cause it to lose its individual identity: that each organization was largely supported by men and women who took a keen interest in their organization, and it was only by virtue of their enthusiasm that their organizations continued to function. A unification of appeals would tend to destroy this vital factor in the life of these organizations: it was necessary that the Canadian public contribute voluntarily toward the cost of services given by these organizations, as these services could not

be adequately furnished by the Government. That experience indicated clearly that infinitely less could be secured from the public as a result of a united appeal, than could be secured by separate appeals.

Notwithstanding the inconvenience to the Canadian public and the extra work imposed upon canvassers, it was in the national interest that the need of giving be kept alive by frequent appeals to the finer instincts of the people, which was brought about by the opportunity to give.

The Red Cross representatives also stated that, in their opinion, they occupied a peculiar position in relationship both to the Canadian public and to the war. That it was, above all others, the one organization that had the most widespread appeal to the people of all classes and, regardless of race, religion or language. It was an emergent organization and had to be prepared to cope with national emergencies and catastrophies and could not budget for its monetary requirements from year to year as could other organizations. That it was part of an international movement and must retain its individual entity at all costs.

### *Seven Other National Services*

On the other hand, representatives of the Salvation Army, Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus, the Canadian Legion, the Navy League, the I.O.D.E. and the Y.W.C.A. all expressed their willingness to join in the united appeal. In the cases of the Salvation Army and the Y.M.C.A., these bodies stated that they would prefer to go their separate ways but were prepared to submerge their personal views for the sake of unity.

These organizations supported a unified appeal on the ground that there seemed to be an ever-increasing body of public opinion demanding such action. This was evidenced by the fact that there was a mounting tendency on the part of local communities in Canada to take matters into their own hands and bring about unity in drives for funds in such communities. They felt that this feeling arose through the fact that the people who gave objected to the ever-recurring appeals being made to them and the people who did the canvassing, in many cases the same people in every drive, feel that too much is being demanded of them in time and effort. There was also a public feeling that a lot of unnecessary expense could be saved by co-ordination.

Having failed to get unanimity on this question, the meeting then canvassed the possibility of the rest of the organizations, exclusive of the Red Cross, combining in one appeal. Representatives of the Salvation Army and the Y.M.C.A.

stated that they were only authorized to agree to unite providing that all, including the Red Cross, joined in a national appeal. The remaining organizations, namely, the Y.W.C.A., the Knights of Columbus, the Canadian Legion, the I.O.D.E. and the Navy League stated that they were prepared to join in a united appeal exclusive of the Red Cross.

### *Agree to Disagree*

It was apparent, therefore, that, at the moment, it is impossible to secure an agreement on the part of representatives of these organizations.

The Chairman stated that these organizations were voluntary organizations—largely operated by people who gave their services voluntarily and were supported by voluntary gifts from the Canadian people and that he was very doubtful if it would be in the interests of the nation that any power of compulsion should be exercised to force any of these organizations to do anything in the way of unification which, in their opinion, was neither in the interests of their organizations nor in the interests of the Canadian people: that coercion applied to voluntary efforts was rather incongruous.

### *A National Advisory Board*

A step towards an ultimate solution of the problem did, however, come out of the meeting when the meeting approved of the following suggestion:—

That an advisory board be set up to be known as "The Na-

tional War Services Advisory Board", for the purpose of considering appeals, by general canvass, of National War Services Organizations, and to advise the Minister with regard to the merits of such appeals after examination of their annual financial statements, their proposed budgets and their programme of service. This Board should also advise the Minister as to the fixing of dates for these national appeals. That this Board should consist of one representative nominated from

each organization concerned, subject to the confirmation of the Minister, and at least an equal number of members-at-large as the Minister might determine and appoint. It was also suggested that the Chairman of this Committee should be appointed by the Minister.

The Chairman indicated that the whole situation would be reviewed immediately upon the return of the Minister in the light of the opinions expressed and attitudes taken by the organizations in attendance.

In 14 months of war, Canadians have spent \$325 million on war alone, given over \$14 million to charities, and are now straining to find \$4½ million for their voluntary Services in 20 cities. A virile young democracy?

## Canada Stands Firm for Human Welfare

**M**ONTREAL, which was to be expected on its past splendid story, and Calgary, which was unexpected in a first venture of such extent, lead Canada in the interim Community Service appeals, as *WELFARE* leaves the press.

This year 20 Community Chests in our major cities and individual agencies in several other centres, lacking Chests, endorsed the principle of one clear-cut annual campaign for their next year's needs. Four cities were "out" in their first combined drives, — Galt, Guelph, London, and Calgary; Saint John is organizing a combined campaign for 1941. In Victoria and Vancouver, the Community Chests included the Red

Cross appeal. In Galt, Guelph, and Calgary, all services—war or community—planning public appeals for 1941 needs were included. In Hamilton, Regina and Saskatoon, the entire range of community services, including the home needs of national agencies, operating war services, (Salvation Army, Y.M. Services, etc.) were included. In the other centres, the pattern followed the design of the usual community campaign. Combined objectives totalled approximately \$4,600,000, of which \$437,000 in these joint campaigns was for Red Cross, \$33,000 for other war services, and \$4,125,000 for community services.

Montreal has four federations, divided along religious and racial

lines: her showing is magnificent, —the Federation des Oeuvres in the early 1940 campaign raised \$460,000 on an objective of \$441,500: Financial Federation (Protestant and General) went over its \$752,000 top in eight days: the Jewish Philanthropies, within the next fortnight, obtained \$314,045, \$4,045 in excess of the appeal. (Incidentally, Montreal was the first city in Canada to reach its Red Cross objective—\$1,000,000—early in October.) On November 12th, the Federation of Catholic Charities opened its appeal for \$190,000. No city in North America can show such givings in a ten weeks' period.

Calgary, with 83,000 population, had been working on Chest plans, with which the Canadian Welfare Council is proud to have been associated, since December, 1939. Launching a combined drive, with the initial \$65,000 pledged to the Community Services, the next \$100,000 to the Red Cross, and excess to reserve, it looks now as if the foothill city had made it a real "Calgary Stampede" with perhaps \$200,000 in sight!

Galt and Guelph, new combined Chests also, have showed the old regulars their heels, Galt's 14,000 citizens raising \$69,700 in a \$60,000 goal: Guelph's 21,000 likely to pass their \$70,000.

Hamilton in a combined Community Chest and Home Front Services had a heavy job, to get \$161,000 on top of a separate Red Cross appeal for \$125,000 practically overlapping their campaign:

it looks like \$155,000 at least, just now.

London's first Community Chest was modest — \$50,000 for 10 agencies: the campaign starting a little late, looks like a success.

Down by the sea, Halifax, as usual, went out for its usual objective of \$60,000, got practically 98% in 10 days, will likely get the rest. Even war does not vary the pattern in "an Eastern Canadian port".

Toronto's major campaign, the Federation for Community Service, is straining for the line of \$582,623, with nearly 90% in hand, well ahead of last year at this time: the Catholic Charities result, while still incomplete, is ahead of last year: the United Jewish Welfare Fund is also well ahead of last year's, but with heavy going still to face. Again, with the Red Cross campaign for one million dollars overlapping, the odd million dollars, required for the community's services, takes some finding.

Ottawa, unfortunately, has about the poorest showing of all the larger cities, down 12% on the objective of \$163,000, down \$17,000 on last year's returns—a regrettable reverse lead from Canada's Capital where millions more dollars and thousands more citizens are found than in 1939. Here the Red Cross campaign, not yet over the top, overlapped worse and longer than in any other centre, affecting particularly the givings of small firms and employees on fixed incomes.

Winnipeg's opening coincided with one of the worst electrical

storms in history, and what the Winnipeg campaign headquarters writes is not for publication! They are overtaking a bad start, well ahead of last year now, and hope to cross the line.

Regina and Saskatoon, (in which two cities a much higher percentage of the population are still on relief than in industrial cities of similar size), are holding their own, the former so far better than last year's results. Here again the over-lapping Red Cross appeal has backed up canvassing and donations.

Vancouver flashes, as we go to press, within 10% of their heavily increased objective of \$690,000: Victoria has \$82,000 on a \$100,000 goal, ahead of last year—they'll make it, all right.

The Vancouver Catholic Charities made their objective in their early appeal: the Sherbrooke (Que.) Catholic Charities seem certain of their \$12,000.

The smaller individual appeals have done well, on the whole, from Sydney in Cape Breton to small towns in Ontario, and up into Northern Manitoba. All write expressing gratitude for the strengthening of their effort through the general national interpretation programme.

Throughout Canada, the sup-

port of pulpit, public, press, film and radio has been magnificent; local papers and the Association of Canadian Broadcasters have been unusually generous. It has been the hardest going the community services have ever faced, not excluding the depression years. The succession of war service appeals not only meant necessarily reduced funds to give away, but they had made exhausting demands on the time and energy of canvassers, particularly the women and small business men, the great army of regulars on whom the Community Services have called, this score of years. Every centre, except those with joint campaigns, reported grave complications from the telescoping of the Canadian Red Cross appeal for \$5 million. Being the Society's second appeal in 10 months, this preceded or coincided with the Community Services appeals, whereas last year, coming in mid-November, there was adequate clearance, since the major Chest appeals for years now have been "cleaned up" by the last week of October or the first of November.

\* \* \*

United States' Chests, to date, have raised \$18,500,000—with an average increase of nearly 3% over last year's givings. C.W.

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## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, QUEBEC

Word has just been received of the creation of a Ministry of Social Welfare in the ancient province. The Department will include public health, supervision of the Quebec Public Charities Act, and general oversight of all welfare responsibilities of the provincial authority. Congratulations, Quebec!



## War's Shadows in the Classroom

**A**CCEDING to the request of *WELFARE* for some comment as to the effect of the war on the Kindergarten child, a cross-section study was made of the little folk in the classes of one large Canadian city. These included Kindergartens situated in a foreign district, in an under-privileged Anglo-Saxon area, and a third, serving a population on the whole economically secure.

### *New Canadians*

The Kindergarten children of the school in the foreign section, "seem to be very little affected with the war situation of to-day". It has an attendance of one hundred children,—fifty-seven are Jewish and the remaining forty-three, Finnish, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, Roumanian, Czechoslovakian, Ukrainian, Austrian and German.

It is difficult to know just why these children do not appear affected, but there are a number of possible reasons. They cannot claim, with pride, any soldier fathers or brothers; consequently, they are not affected by the personal touch of war upon their family group.

Nearly all the parents have relatives suffering in the war or ravages of war in Europe, but these are relatives the children have not known, apart from them, and consequently of little interest to the five year old.

Occasionally the Kindergarten teacher is confidante to a whis-

pered, 'My uncle has been killed in Finland,' or 'Mother can't send any more money to Grandmother in Poland.'

However, if conversation does lead to current events, one hears the definite, uncompromising voice of a five year old, "There is no good in Hitler and he should be shot dead through and through the heart".

During the play activities the flair for modelling and drawing of aeroplanes and bombers seems to be the only outward signs of consciousness of war activity.

These children of foreign homes nearly always reflect problem situations. Emotionally they are very unsteady but the war is not the only cause. The parents have come to this country to escape the troubles of Europe. Of course they have many trials here, and their children seem, some way, to be building up a certain self-protection against adult worry.

School is their bright spot for the day and these little ones are all eager to enter into this new

world which means warmth, brightness, friendship and a wealth of interests.

### *Anglo-Saxons Under Strain*

The children in the second Kindergarten group are mainly of British birth — 49% Canadian, 19% English, 11% Irish, 7% Scottish, with a very small percentage from the United States, Poland and Italy.

For the most part their homes have suffered from years of depression—a high percentage being on relief and the remainder making a brave struggle for independence.

What strains of war show in this Kindergarten?

A close interest in the war was early shown in the choice of play and work activities. Play, left to the free organization of the children had a strong military character. The choice of work had the same bearing—building of sea and land war transports, modelling bombers, drawing battleships, etc.

Many of the fathers had already enlisted, or were preparing for war service. They have since gone, either across the sea or to some Canadian port or camp. And now, the choice of activities has swung back and changed, to quite an extent, to home or community interests though of course the war element still remains.

However, in the children themselves there are decided evidences of strain which shows itself in nervous habits, unusual fidgeting, loud harsh voices, and very often an amazing display of impatience

one with another. Kindergarten teachers are accustomed to the emergence of many of these symptoms at the best of times and deal with them, usually, by providing rest periods to relieve the tension of work or play and, in quiet, the disturbances disappear. But now, whilst rest is more than ever needed, it does not seem to have the same effect of relaxation and quietening.

On enquiring into home conditions back of these upsets, war's shadows were clear. In one home the mother, who had previously left discipline entirely to the father, was, in his absence, quite at sea as to how to manage her children. Her usual, 'Wait till your father comes home' was now of no use and the children were quite aware of the removal of control. Consequently, meals were served only when the children were pleased to finish their play and bedtime came only when exhaustion claimed its victims.

In another home, the mother was preparing for confinement in an agony of fear that her other four children, one of whom had chicken pox, would not be cared for whilst she was hospitalized. The sincere assurances of a very efficient nurse were of no avail. The emotional upheaval in this home was tremendous.

Another investigation showed a woman of low mentality, unused to handling money. Here the army pay cheque, coming in regularly, was spent on drinking and irregular living. The children were such victims of neglect that a social

agency had to step in and care for them.

Against these cases were many, where the mother was bravely trying to take the place of both parents and often showing surprising wisdom and ingenuity in facing her problems. But, even in these cases, and in the homes where no immediate relative was serving in the war, there is constant strain and anxiety. For fear of missing some bit of news—good or bad—the radio is tuned in, from early morning till late at night. This, in itself, encourages the children to form the habit of not listening, for they must set up some form of self-protection. When this non-listening habit is once established, it is very hard to overcome and auditory education brings very little result in the classroom.

There are, however, cheerful glints, too, in the picture.

The war, with its military drills and display, is making the child conscious of posture as nothing else has. Ordinarily, there is a serious lack of pride in carriage, and this is reflected in both the health and character of the pupils. There is now a general air of "Chins up", or, at least, a ready response to any suggestion of the kind.

There is discernible, too, the effect of the Kindergarten's inculcation of a sense of security, just in its ordinary keeping of the child to the daily school and health routines and in providing very real interests in happy surroundings.

### *Home and Income Both Secure*

It would have seemed inevitable that, this year, any Kindergarten anywhere, would have reflected war time in unrest, tenseness and difficult social adjustments among the pupils therein—but in the third Kindergarten studied, in a socially secure and stable urban district, this was not the case. The children's relaxation in their rest time was reported to be quite as complete as formerly. In the conversation period, gifts of materials for use by the Red Cross or other war services may be mentioned, and there may be frequent references to the war, but not in any sense of fear or disturbance. Here, too, it is noted that posture is particularly good, with shoulders back and arms swinging, the step crisp and the expression alert. This is attributed, quite definitely, to the influence of the military parade.

The absence of emotional difficulties is explained, in the judgment of the teacher of this class, as due in part to the fact that in the homes served by this school, the interest in the war, while keen, is comparatively impersonal, almost no fathers having "gone to the war". Also, she considers, that the sense of personal security may be due to greater prosperity, because here, too, in spite of a fairly high standard of income and living, a few people had been unemployed but now, with better times, greater financial security exists. "Perhaps the most telling factor, however, is the stability in the home background of these

children where, because of the general cultural level and interest, the war is discussed with intelligence and, in the presence of children, with restraint. This is combined with purposeful activity in the home, which, in many cases, characterizes the entire family, and ensures poise."

Yes, the Kindergartens are coloured by the war in varying

degrees of intensity, and each type of reaction presents its own challenge. In meeting this challenge, the Kindergartners will keep in mind the recent words of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth: "When peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of to-day, to make the world of to-morrow a better and happier place."

—CONTRIBUTED.

## On to Windsor! 1941

### ANNUAL MEETING, 1940, CANCELLED

OWING TO many war demands of both time and money, the executive of National Federation of Kindergarten, Nursery School and Kindergarten-Primary Teachers has decided to cancel the annual business meeting to have been held in Toronto. Instead, all reports, usually read at that meeting, will be sent to each member.

There is another special purpose behind this consideration. Each member of the Association may now conserve energy and necessary expenses for the great biennial convention in Windsor next year.

Watch *WELFARE* for further news.

#### FACE AUX PROBLEMES . . . (Suite de page 17)

Il y a un dicton anglais qui dit: "When poverty enters the door, love flies out of the window". Les assistantes sociales qui ont eu l'avantage d'étudier les causes et les résultats de la désunion de la famille, ont trouvé dans maints cas, que le problème du revenu insuffisant, qu'il soit sous forme de secours ou de salaire, ne fait pas mentir le proverbe anglais.

Une étude quotidienne des conditions de vie sociales et écono-

miques de la vie des chômeurs et des familles ayant des revenus insuffisants me fait conclure et suggérer qu'une coopération plus étroite du personnel des oeuvres et de leurs Conseils de Directeurs bien informés, avec les autorités municipales et provinciales qui, nous le savons, sont dévoués au bien-être public, arriverait graduellement à rendre la vie meilleure et plus sûre pour les pauvres et les désemparés de notre pays.







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